

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 114

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 54

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to American Stroke Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 30, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 114, Cedillo. American Stroke Month.

This measure would declare May 2008 as American Stroke Month in California and urge all Californians to familiarize themselves with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke to reduce the devastating effects of stroke on the population.

WHEREAS, Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, killing over 150,000 Americans, including 16,000 Californians, each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately every three minutes someone dies from a stroke; and

WHEREAS, About 700,000 Americans each year suffer a new or recurrent stroke. This means that, on average, a stroke occurs every 45 seconds in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability, with stroke victims experiencing functional limitations or difficulties with the activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, Women and minorities bear a major portion of the burden of cardiovascular disease, but they are often unaware of its life-threatening symptoms, are diagnosed at later stages, and may not get appropriate care and followup; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 stroke death rates per 100,000 population for specific groups were 48.1 for Caucasian males, 47.2 for Caucasian females, 74.9 for African American males, 65.5 for African American females, 44.2 for Asian Pacific Islander males, 38.9 for Asian Pacific Islander females, 41.5 for Latino males, and 35.4 for Latina females; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that Latino have a higher rate of hemorrhagic stroke, bleeding in the brain, at a younger age than non-Latino Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, Risk factors for stroke include, but are not limited to, age and family history as well as high blood pressure, diabetes, cigarette smoking, high blood cholesterol, physical inactivity and obesity, and other heart diseases; and

WHEREAS, Americans are more aware of the risk factors and warning signs for stroke than in the past, however, less than one in five adults can correctly classify all stroke symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Warning signs of stroke may include sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, With some types of stroke, clotbusting medication can be administered to reduce the severity of the stroke and improve the outcome. However, there is a three-hour window in which to administer the medication and the longer any stroke goes undetected, the more damage it may do; and

WHEREAS, New and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of strokes, but much more research is needed; and

WHEREAS, The themes for American Stroke Month 2008 are “Know the Stroke Warning Signs and Act in Time,” to educate the public and policymakers about the importance of recognizing a stroke and acting quickly during a stroke emergency, and “The Power to End Stroke,” to reduce the incidence of stroke in those members of our communities who are at particularly high risk of the disease by empowering them to reduce their risk, recognize the warning signs, and respond quickly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the month of May 2008 shall be recognized as American Stroke Month in California in order to raise awareness of the effects of stroke; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges all Californians to familiarize themselves with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke so that we might begin to reduce the devastating effects strokes have on our population; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.